



Committee: Directly to Council

Committee Review: N/A

Staff: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst

Purpose: Receive briefing and have discussion – no vote expected

Keywords: Coronavirus, COVID-19

AGENDA ITEM #6.5

April 23, 2020

Discussion

SUBJECT

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update (County Council sitting as the Board of Health)

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Dr. Travis Gayles, County Health Officer and Chief of DHHS Public Health Services

Dr. Earl Stoddard, Director, Office of Emergency management and Homeland Security

Dr. Raymond Crowel, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Council sitting as Board of Health to receive updates.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The Council will receive an update on the public health data and emergency response to the COVID-19 public emergency from Dr. Gayles and Dr. Stoddard. In addition to their general update, they have been asked to provide any information on how the recently acquired 500,000 tests from South Korea is expected to change testing policies for the State and Montgomery County, whether Montgomery County will continue efforts to procure tests, the opening of new testing sites, and the implementation of a hotline or call center to improve access for people without a primary care provider.

Governor's statement on acquiring tests from South Korea:

<https://governor.maryland.gov/2020/04/20/full-remarks-governor-hogan-announces-state-of-maryland-acquires-500000-covid-19-tests-from-south-koreas-labgenomics/>

Frequently Asked Questions about Testing (Maryland website):

https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/coronavirus_testing_FAQ.pdf

Frequently Asked Questions about VEIP Testing Site (Maryland website):

https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/FAQ_covid19_veip_testing.pdf

The following is data from the Maryland website on April 22, 2020:

- 14,775 confirmed cases statewide compared to 14,193 yesterday (increase of 582 cases or 4.1%).
- 2,868 confirmed cases in Montgomery County compared to 2,768 yesterday (increase of 100 cases or 3.6%).

- 631 confirmed deaths statewide, represents 4.3% of total cases. In addition, there are 67 “probable deaths” that have not been confirmed by testing.
- 110 confirmed deaths in Montgomery County; an increase of 11 from yesterday. Represents 3.8% of confirmed cases. In addition, there are 16 “probable deaths” that have not been confirmed by testing.
- 3,325 cumulative hospitalizations statewide; represents 22.5% of confirmed cases.
- 981 persons have been released from isolation statewide.
- 61,754 negative tests statewide.

Statewide Demographic Data

The State provides statewide demographic data; it does not provide data by county.

Sex:	Confirmed Cases (N= 14,775)	Confirmed Deaths (N= 631)	Probable Deaths (N=67)
Male	6,821	339	26
Female	7,954	292	41
Not available	0	0	0
Race:	Confirmed Cases (N= 14,775)	Confirmed Deaths (N=631)	Probable Deaths (N=67)
African American (NH)	5,540	289	19
Asian (NH)	304	21	1
White (NH)	3,476	234	38
Hispanic	2,033	69	
Other (NH)	571	10	
Not Available	2,851	8	9

COVID-19 Background (from Maryland.gov)

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a respiratory virus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. COVID-19 is a new virus that hasn't caused illness in humans before. Worldwide, COVID-19 has resulted in thousands of infections, causing illness and in some cases death. Cases have spread to countries throughout the world, with more cases reported daily.

COVID-19 is thought to be able to spread like the cold or flu through:

Coughing and sneezing, which creates respiratory droplets
 Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
 Touching an object or surface with the virus on it

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

Fever
 Coughing
 Shortness of breath
 In more severe cases, pneumonia (infection in the lungs)

The vast majority of people recover from this infection. Most people will have mild or moderate symptoms. Older people and those with pre-existing medical conditions have a greater risk for more serious illness.

Link to County Website:

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/RightNav/Coronavirus.html>

Link to Maryland Website:

<https://governor.maryland.gov/coronavirus/>

Link to CDC Website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The Board of Health is continuing its regular briefings on the status of cases in Montgomery County and ongoing coordination and collaboration with federal, State, and local agencies and healthcare providers.

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